

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

A replacement drawing sheet for Figure 6 is submitted herewith which adds a legend designating Figure 6 as “Prior Art” in order to address the Examiner’s objection.

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1 and 4 have been canceled, thus claims 2-3 and 4-7 are now active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

The specification has been carefully reviewed and revised to make grammatical and idiomatic improvements in order to aid the Examiner in further consideration of the application. The amendments to the specification are incorporated in the attached substitute specification. No new matter has been added. Also attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the current amendment. The attachment is captioned “**Version with marking to show changes made.**”

On page 2 of the Office Action, the drawings were objected to for failing to designate Figure 6 as prior art. A replacement Fig. 6 has been prepared and submitted herewith labeling Figure 6 as Prior Art. Entry of this replacement drawing is respectfully requested, and it is respectfully requested that the Examiner indicate approval and entry of these drawings in the next Office Action.

On pages 2-3 of the Office Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Takamura (US 5,665,068). This rejection is now believed moot in view of the cancellation of claim 1.

On pages 3-4 of the Office Action, claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takamura. This rejection is now believed moot in view of the cancellation of claim 4.

On page 4 of the Office Action, claims 2-3 and 5-7 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but were indicated allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2 and 3 are amended herewith so as to incorporate the limitations of claim 1. Claims 5-7 now depend from new independent claims 2 and 3.

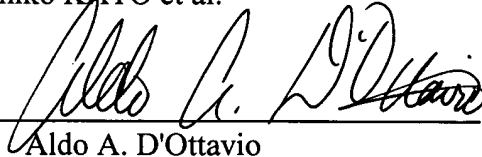
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Masahiko KATO et al.

By: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aldo A. D'Ottavio', written over a horizontal line.

Aldo A. D'Ottavio

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